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AN

ENQUIRY

Into the Designs of the late

PETITION

Presented to Parliament

BY THE

Company of Apothecaries.

With Remarks, how far it deserved Attention.

WHEREBY

The *Apothecary's* present monstrous Profits are exposed, and compared with those of the *Chemist*, with respect to Practice and Retail.

To which is annexed

A SCHEME, tending to prevent the Empirical Apothecary from Practising; and the Chemist from preparing and vending sophisticated Medicines.

IN

A LETTER to the Company of APOTHECARIES, occasioned by a late Pamphlet, called *Frauds detected in Drugs, &c.*

LONDON,

Printed for M. COOPER in Pater-noster Row.

MDCCXLVIII.

[Price One Shilling.]

Omnia patefacienda, ut ne quid omnino quod Venditor norit, Emptor ignoret. TULL.

'Till now you have gone on, and fill'd the Time
With all licentious Meaſure, making your Wills
The Scope of Juſtice.
Thou waſt told thus;
Thou gav'ſt thine Ears, like Tapſters, that bid Welcome
To Knaves and all Approachers: 'Tis moſt juſt
That Thou turn Raſcal. SHAKESP.

To the COMPANY of

APOTHECARIES.

GENTLEMEN,

THE late Pamphlet, which you are ſuppoſed to have wrote, called *Frauds detected in Drugs*, being exhibited with the moſt ſeeming Simplicity, and principally levelled againſt the Chemiſts and Druggiſts, has occaſioned ſeveral public and private Diſputes amongſt indifferent Perſons, as well as thoſe concerned in Trade. And as the Public remain ſtill ignorant, which Party is the Aggreſſor, and whoſe Cauſe ought chiefly to be conſidered; I ſhall endeavour in the following Sheets, the Product of a few Leiſure Hours, to clear

up this important Affair, by demonſtrating how far your late Petition to Parliament deſerved Attention; and then conclude with a Scheme, which, if properly put in Force by the Legiſlature, would effectually re-eſtabliſh that former Harmony ſubſiſting between you and the Chemiſts, *&c.*

In the Introduction to your late Pamphlet, you ſay, *It is the Duty of every* HONEST APOTHECARY, *&c.* concerned in the Compounding of Medicines, ſtrictly to conform himſelf to the Directions of the *Diſpenſatory*; which I grant you; but why don't they do it? They are prevented by two very obvious Reaſons, the firſt is, There are Hundreds who don't believe the Company does it, and with very good Reaſon; for, to argue in the Style of your Pamphlet, *(viz. I have Reaſon to believe*, or, *I have been told)* there is a certain Surgeon and Apothecary now living, who formerly dealt at your Hall for all his compound Medicines; on which Account he imagined himſelf happy in his Practice, and ſecure againſt the Villainy of the Inſpectors, who annually uſed to extort from him Six Shillings, as a Perquiſite for the Trouble of their Viſi-

Viſitation, being ignorant how little Authority they had for ſuch a Proceeding. It happened that one Time, in their Rounds, they called at his Shop, and found the Journeyman alone at home; and with their uſual Front, deſired to look at ſeveral Medicines, amongſt which was Mithridate. One taſted, and his Opinion was, that it had not the Quantity of Gums; another, that it wanted Conſiſtence; and in general, they all condemned it as a Medicine not fit to be uſed. During this Interval, in comes the Maſter, who deſiring their Buſineſs, Why, Sir, replied one, we belong to the Hall, and called, as uſual, to inſpect a few of your Medicines: you know what is common on theſe Occaſions. To which replies the Maſter, I ſhall not give you a Farthing. No, ſays one! why look ye, Sir, your Mithridate is very bad, and not fit to be uſed, and we ſhall be obliged to make Report of it accordingly? Nay, ſays the Maſter, now I am convinced what a Neſt of Villains I have to deal with, who being nettled at my refuſing their uſual Impoſition, begin to ſhew their knaviſh Principles, by condemning Medicines of their own Compounding: ſo taking down his File, Look ye, ſays he, here is the Bill of Parcels

of the Mithridate, and a Receipt for the Money paid at your Hall, three or four Days ago; and here is my Man, who bought it and paid the Money; for I have dealt for it no where elſe, for many Years, and always pay ready Money for it, and other Goods. And his Man declared, the Perſon was then preſent, who gave him the Receipt. This Misfortune occaſioned ſuch a general Confuſion amongſt them, that they were glad to beg Pardon, and make up the Matter in Terms which they little ſuſpected. The Apothecary, it is believed, at this Time would make Oath to the above Purport, if required.

Now, are theſe Perſons to be acknowledged * competent Judges of Medicines, when they cannot diſcern their own from others, which they declare and condemn as unfit for Uſe? And if this be true, how can you expect Apothecaries in general, to compound Medicines juſtly, when they have ſo bad an Example?

* The Apothecaries, in their late Petition to Parliament, inſiſted on their being conſidered as competent Judges; but the Parliament would not liſten to it, as appears by their Bill being rejected.

This is not the only Inſtance of this Kind; the *Apothecary diſplay'd* has mentioned more, which ſee.

AGAIN, on the other Hand, if we conſider the Apothecary as having Honeſty enough to compound Medicines after the *Diſpenſatory*, whether has he a Capacity or not, for that Purpoſe? I may almoſt totally anſwer in the Negative; for it is generally allowed, that one half, if not three Parts out of four, of thoſe who ſtyle themſelves Apothecaries, in and about *London*, ſome too in very reputable Practice, are ſo very illiterate, that they underſtand no more of Compounding and Preparing capital Medicines, than they do of the *Philoſopher's Stone*; or they may be more properly compared to a Jack-maker, who, you would imagine, could conſtruct and organize a Watch, becauſe he underſtands Wheels. Nay, there is not one in ten, who perfectly underſtands the Derivation or Meaning of his Technical Terms, or can read the Phyſician's Bill, truly, in proper *Latin*, nor perhaps underſtands it any better, abbreviated; ſo that theſe Perſons are under the greateſt Obligation to Dr. *Pemberton*, for tranſlating the late *Diſpenſatory*

tory into *Engliſh*; for by a previous Examination it might be eaſily proved, they neither could underſtand it, nor even read it with its proper Accent.

The Doctor requires no leſs the Thanks of the Public on the ſame Account, for he may be ſuppoſed to have preſerved the Lives of a thouſand innocent Perſons, who might have fallen a Victim through the Ignorance of Compounders, who not underſtanding the *Latin*, though wrote in the plaineſt Style, might have committed many fatal Blunders. Theſe are not Hearſays, but will be found real Facts, if the College of Phyſicians ſhould form a Committee, purpoſely for their Examination. And are theſe, think you, proper Perſons to compound Medicines? They never were taught to do it, and are too conceited, or elſe have not a Capacity, to learn.

The *Lives and Healths of his Majeſty's Subjects*, which you mention, depend much more on the Unſkilfulneſs of the illiterate blundering Apothecary, in preparing the Medicines, and giving the neceſſary Directions for taking them, preſcribed in *Latin* by the Phyſician, than

than in any Fault in the Medicines purchaſed from the Chemiſt or Druggiſt. The Public may eaſily be informed of theſe Facts; for there is not a Pariſh in or about *London*, but you'll meet with numbers of theſe ignorant Fellows, in tolerable Practice, ſtrutting in their Tye-Wigs, and viſiting their Patients with the ſame Front as if they had been educated and had ſerved ſeven Years to a complete Maſter; though perhaps their Practice was derived from the Obſervations, either as Labourers or Errand-Boys in a Shop, or elſe from being a Lobloliboy a few Years on board a War Ship, employed to ſcour the Mortar and Bolus Stone. Numbers who have had no other Education, are to be found within the Bills of Mortality; ſome of which have not eſcaped your Cenſure, and who neither underſtand what you mean by your VERUM or NON *VERUM; but having had Oeconomy enough to lay by twenty or thirty Pounds in their Servitude, together with a little Credit from the Druggiſt or Chemiſt, immediately commence Apothecaries, and take care to open their Shops in ſuch Places where the Inhabitants are not able to

* A ſtrange Term inſtanced in the late Petition.

ſuſpect

ſuſpect their Capacity and original Education; and if they appear perſonable and happily ſupplied with a moſt delicate, pure, and effeminate Tongue, they ſeldom fail of inſinuating themſelves into the Women's Favour, who, by the Way, require a great Complaiſance from their *Hats*. If this Gift fails, then Recourſe is had amongſt thoſe who love the Bottle and Song, which ſeldom fails of procuring Buſineſs, on account of being eſteemed a merry Fellow and good Company.

THUS do the unthinking Part of Mankind impoſe upon themſelves, by preferring theſe empirical, ignorant Pretenders in Phyſic, to Men of Letters and real Merit; and employing them in the ſame Character as they would the moſt learned Apothecaries at St. *James's*, whoſe Characters and Educations, it ſeems, cannot be ſuſpected, on account of their ſerving the Army with GOOD MEDICINES.

YOU ſee, Gentlemen, I am far from aſperſing thoſe Apothecaries who are remarkable for good Learning and known Genius; my Deſign being to remark Thoſe, who, pretending to theſe Qualifications,

lifications, have acquired ſufficient Fortunes to maintain their Chariots, and who, that they may be more plauſibly eſteemed as learned Men by the Public, as they roll along the Streets, are poring over *Quincy's Diſpenſatory*, or ſuch like Author, to which they ſeem as attentive, as if they were puzzled with the *Aphoriſms of Hippocrates*; or thoſe, whoſe Education in the Practice of Pharmacy, was originally derived as above deſcribed; who conſequently, as they have no Reputation to ſtake, have none to loſe; but notwithſtanding, by the moſt ſcandalous enthuſiaſtical Proceedings, are daily raiſing themſelves to the very Summit of Grandeur, merely by picking the Pockets of thoſe who innocently employ them.

THESE are the Perſons whom you ought to have particularized in your Petition, if you really were *concerned for the Welfare of his Majeſty's Subjects*; for it would have been judged honourable and equitable in you, to expoſe that Man, who pretends publickly to profeſs that Art of which he is ignorant, more eſpecially, that important Practice where Life is entruſted to his

Care: For it may be eaſily conceived, that ſuch unconſcionable Impoſtors pick a thouſand times more Pockets and deſtroy Lives, than they cure Diſtempers.

It is really no Wonder, when theſe pure Ignoramus's are ſuffered to practiſe unmoleſted, that the City of *London* ſhould be peſtered with ſuch Swarms of foreign and domeſtick advertiſing venereal Quacks; ſince all, whoſe Petty Knowledge would not maintain them abroad, are ſure to find a Shelter for their Ignorance in *London*, eſpecially when encouraged with the unlimited Price of their poiſoning.

It is through the Inactivity of the College of Phyſicians, that theſe *Chemical Pinkanello's* and *Phyſical Jack-Puddings* have made ſuch a Progreſs. This ſtrange Liberty and Indulgence, if not timely ſuppreſſed, will prove very fatal to their Honour, and Dignity, who, hitherto, have juſtly been acknowledged the moſt learned Body in *Europe*.

And do not theſe public Bites and buſy Mendicants enforce your Notice, much more than the bare Suſpicions of the

the Chemiſts ſophiſticating their Medicines: certainly they deſerve a Regulation, or rather a total Extirpation; for they are a real Nuſance to the regular learned Practitioners, not only for publicly thieving away their Property, but for betraying and revealing their enormous Profits.

It is manifeſt from theſe Conſiderations, that you really did not conſult effectually how to preſerve *the Lives of his Majeſty's Subjects*: no, that Expreſſion was but a Feint, the better to conceal your ambitious Views, as appears by your Pamphlet, which has turned out a *Felo de ſe*, a Conſequence you little dreamt of. You have convinced the World, by aſperſing the Trade in general, that your Deſigns were Self-intereſting and monopolizing; your Scheme was to eſtabliſh a *Phyſical Inquiſition*, to enrich your Company at the induſtrious Chemiſt and Druggiſt's Expence; or elſe your Gall would have reached theſe Enthuſiaſts, theſe Swarms of ignorant Cheats, which the inimitable *Shakeſpear* deſcribes, on another Occaſion, in the following Lines:

—— *A Knot of Mouth Friends,*
Moſt ſmiling, ſmooth, deteſted Paraſites,
Courteous Deſtroyers, affable Wolves, meek Bears,
Who ſtick and ſpangle all with Flatteries.

But now, ſince the Plan of your four Years Counſel is rejected, unleſs the honeſt Chemiſt and Druggiſt petition for a Renewal and Amendment of the late Act, it is to be feared you will be diſappointed in your annual *Tooth-ſucking Perquiſites*; for if you attempt to demand your uſual Impoſition from theſe compounding Chemiſts and Druggiſts (as you call them) for the future, they will certainly ſtamp you with the Chemical Mark of Impoſtor, and throw the very Duſt in your Eyes with which you would induce the World to believe they compounded their Medicines: And why ſhould they not? For when you ſh—t a T——d at their Door, they certainly have an equal Right to rub your Noſe in it.

THERE are other Circumſtances to be deſcribed, which equally merit the Attention of the Legiſlature. For in Juſtice

Juſtice to the Public, I cannot avoid linking ſome Druggiſts and Chemiſts to the former Chain of Empirical Apothecaries, who, I am ſenſible, are equally illiterate and ignorant: There are Numbers who never had an Opportunity of a better Education than the abovementioned, and yet with Faces of the moſt impenetrable Braſs (having raiſed themſelves from the moſt abject miſerable State of a Shoe-Black, or a Plough-Driver, to that of a Labourer in the Laboratory) have at length commenced Maſters of Shops, and audaciouſly written themſelves CHEMISTS on their Signs with Letters, although they are ſo ignorant both of the Qualities of Drugs and Chemical Medicines, that, if you ſhould aſk them to explain the Virtues of a Chemical Medicine in Technical Terms, or the Names of their Druggs in proper *Latin*, they would prove as unintelligible to them, as the Rabbinnical Commentaries of *Aben Ezra* or *Solomon Jarchi*.

Nunc paulò majora canamus.

A LEARNED Author has given us the following lugubrious Tale, concerning one of theſe Chemical Druggiſts: A Gentleman wanting a little Oak Bark, applied

applied to one of theſe Idiots, and deſired a Pound of *Cortex Querci*. *Cortex per Se!* Replies the Maſter, you mean *Cornu Cervi per Se*. No, ſays the Gentleman, I mean *Cortex Querci*. It's *French*, replies the Maſter; I do not underſtand it; cannot you tell it in *Engliſh?* Why, replies the Gentleman, It is the Bark of the Oak Tree. Ay, replies the Dunce, do you know no better what is *Latin* for an Oak? I ſuppoſe, you know no better what its Virtues are. Why, ſays the Gentleman, it is a *Styptic* and *Reſtringent*. *Stiff-Stick and Reſting-Joint*, replies the Chemiſt laughing, what the Devil's that? I know from the *Accidence*, which I have juſt been reading, that *Robur* is *Latin* for an Oak; for here you ſee, ſhewing the Line, *Pectora percuſſit, Pectora quoque Robora fiunt*. At which the Gentleman breaking out with a loud *Ha! ha! ha!* replied I could not have thought it was in an *Accidence*, but I have found it in an *Ecce Dunce*: And thus took his Leave.

HENCE you ſee how impartial I am, and how ready I am to juſtify real Merit in the different Profeſſions; and that you may not in the leaſt ſuſpect me guilty of the ſame partial radicated Malevolence

volence, with which the late Pamphlet is ſo contemptibly crouded againſt the Trade in general; I ſhall now proceed to analize ſome of theſe Chemical Fire-ſons; and you may convince yourſelves by a proper Examination in this Affair, that Truth only is my Baſis. But you muſt pardon me, if I am unable to embelliſh my Sentiments with ſuch ſublime ſtigmatizing Inſtances; as *I have Reaſon to believe*, *have been thus told*, with a Train of Prolegomena and Notæ Variorum, and ſuch like inſolent Expreſſions interſperſed in *Frauds detected*, for, according to *Eſdras*, *Magna eſt veritas, & prævalebit.* It has been often remarked that there are not upwards of twenty regular Chemiſts in *London*, and yet there are Hundreds who ſtyle themſelves ſo: But it muſt not be ſuppoſed, but amongſt the latter, there are Men of the beſt Letters and penetrating Genius, of which we have daily Inſtances; for a Man with theſe Advantages, though he never ſerved as an Apprentice to the Art, can read, ſtudy, and practiſe, and by a diligent Application, may inſtruct himſelf ſufficiently to prepare the Chemical Medicines uſed in Pharmacy, and with the ſame Advantage as others; and when he

is ſo far completed, he may venture ſafely upon the moſt abſtruſe Preparations, and at laſt be acknowledged a Proficient in that noble Science. To a Man thus qualified, the Method of compounding *Galenical* Medicines will very naturally occur, though in this, there is more Honeſty than Knowledge required; but it muſt be allowed, that no Man knows how to mix and proportion Ingredients of various Qualities, ſo well as he who is acquainted with Chemical Principles; and yet, what Scores can we produce pretending to this Science, who cannot even define nor deſcribe the Difference between Acid and Alkali?

How is it to be expected that theſe Pretenders to this Art, ſhould compound and prepare Medicines, when they are not capable of inſtructing themſelves by the peruſal of Authors, ſince ſeveral of them can ſcarce read or write, nor underſtand what they do read in a Chemical Author wrote in the plaineſt *Engliſh*? What muſt they do then with *Latin* Authors, by which they may reap ſuch conſiderable Advantages? or what could they do, even with the *Pharmacopœia* untranſlated? *Res ipſa loquitur.* But this is not all,

all, there are other worſe Circumſtances to be dreaded; theſe Chemical Lucifers are not content with retailing their ſophiſticated Compounds, but pretend to cure this or that Diſeaſe incident to the Poor, by their infallible Noſtrums, to the Scandal, not only of the learned Practitioner, but of Dr. *Rock* himſelf; for let the Complaint be what it will, there is a *Panacea* ready, according to your Price; others who trample upon that Dignity and contemn it as common, will venture to viſit thoſe who are weak enough to employ them as Apothecaries, and adminiſter Medicines, right or wrong, when the Nature of the Diſeaſe is as myſterious to them, as *Van Helmont's Alkaheſt.*

I COULD deſcribe the Names and Places of Reſidence of theſe audacious *Cheats*; but to trace their Origin and Education, would ſwell this Pamphlet to a Volume. Mr. *L—w—s* has greatly ſurprized the Town, by honouring a certain idle Experimenter, lately, with the Title of *Chemiſt* in the public Papers; that very unguarded Expreſſion has not a little eclipſed the Luſtre of his Lectures in the Opinion of the Public, notwithſtanding his Abilities; for it is well known this

ſophiſticating *Enthuſiaſt* never ſaw the Inſide of a Laboratory, and never had an Opportunity to cultivate the leaſt Idea in Chemiſtry, unleſs, before his late Arrival in Town, he acquired his Art in the *Devil's Arſe o' Peak*, near which it is ſuppoſed he had his Origin. His Progreſs and Advancement through ſome ſtrange Viciſſitudes of Fortune to commence Maſter of a Shop, makes no amends for Ignorance, nor ought to plead for Capacity; for if Mr. *L—w—s* ſhould read him a Lecture *durante Vitâ*, he would find him at laſt as imperfect and ignorant in the Theory of Chemiſtry, as he now is in the Practice. How can it be ſuppoſed that any Perſon, who never had better Education than a *Plough Boy*, ſhould underſtand the Method of compounding and adminiſtring Medicines? The leaſt *Recipe* in the *Latin Pharmacopœia* muſt prove as unintelligible to ſuch a Perſon, as the technical Documents of *Paracelſus*. And does ſuch a Perſon merit the the diſtinguiſhing Title of Chemiſt? No, there are Numbers who, for certain undeniable Reaſons, acknowledge the Title of *Tr-ckſt-r* comes nearer the Original.

THESE Innovators, who ſo audaciouſly ſcandalize your Profeſſion, and depreciate the moſt noble Science of Chemiſtry; who compound and preſcribe with the ſame * *Diabolical Front*, as if they had ſtudied at the Univerſity; certainly merit the Contempt of all Men of Letters; nay even of ſuch COMPETENT JUDGES as the Company of Apothecaries, who certainly would have acquired a general Applauſe, had theſe Empirics been the Subject of their Complaint, inſtead of the Traders in general.

THE entire Extirpation of theſe pernicious Encroachers, could not fail of producing the moſt happy Conſequences. In the firſt Place, it would have cauſed a prodigious Increaſe of your Trade and Profits, and conſequently would have ſilenced your Acclamations, and re-eſtabliſhed your Harmony with the Chemiſts, *&c.* whoſe Number would be ſo far diminiſhed thereby, that you would have no longer Reaſon to complain of their ſerving you with ſophiſticated Medicines, as it would not be worth while. Secondly, it would have ſecured the Practice

* This is not to be underſtood in any other Senſe further than alluding to the *Devil's Arſe o'Peak.*

and Reputation of the Phyſician; conſequently the *Welfare of his Majeſty's Subjects* would be, really, conſidered; and laſtly, it would have maintained the Rights and Privileges of the regular Apprentice; for when you ſeriouſly conſider the encroaching Liberties aſſumed by theſe Empirics, your entire Averſion to them muſt naturally occur. The Parent, who educates his Son in a View to advance him to the Dignity of a regular Apothecary, has great Reaſon to ſuſpect his Care, and 70 *l.* given as a Fee, as ſo much loſt, when at the ſame Time an ignorant *Porter*, or *Labourer*, taken from the *Plough*, can ſettle in Buſineſs with the ſame Advantages; for the unthinking Part of Mankind as readily employ theſe Novices as the regular Apothecary, and never reflect how they impoſe on themſelves, and endanger their Lives by ſuch Means.

These Bands of illiterate *Sophiſts* are like ſo many Knots of Quick Graſs, and lethiferous Plants in a Phyſic Garden, which ought to be carefully diſtinguiſhed and weeded out, becauſe they imbibe and ſteal thoſe Juices, which ought to nouriſh the more valuable ſalutiferous Plants.

It is impoſſible that any ill Conſequences ſhould attend the Extirpation of theſe public Deceivers; the Liberty of the Subject could not be infringed by it, for it differs widely from thoſe whoſe Buſineſs is to buy and ſell only, as the Grocers, *&c.* The one gives Advice and preſcribes Remedies for the Sick, whereby Life is entruſted in his Hands; the other never pretends to what is beyond his Capacity, and contents himſelf with the bare Profits of ſelling thoſe Articles which are eſſentially neceſſary to the Oeconomy of domeſtic Affairs, *&c.* But the firſt has the Opportunity of concealing his larger Profits from the deluded Patient; and as the greater the Gain the better the Buſineſs, ſo this is the real lucrative Motive that induces theſe Cheats to impoſe on the credulous Cuſtomer.

Again, theſe Empirics enjoy another Advantage; for the ſmall Sum of 20 *l.* properly diſburſed in moveable Medicines, will fit out a ſmall Shop; and if the Owner is happily accompliſhed with a delicate ſoothing Tongue, he can palm off his Impoſitions to ſuch Advantage, as to acquire greater Gains with this trifling Stock, than the fair Buyer

and

and Seller with 200 *l.* in Trade. The Reaſon is plain, the Buyer knows the common Price of the one, but is ignorant of the Value of the latter: Hence it is plain, that a Regulation or Elimination of theſe Uſurpers, would rather reſtore the Liberty of the Subject, than infringe it. A Man may buy and ſell any Thing for a Livelihood, but ought not to ſport with other Men's Lives.

——*Pudet hæc opprobria vobis.* Ov.

This Practice is more fatal than a Madman's Sword: Men, who compound, retail Medicines, and preſcribe them to poor People, ought to be Men of good Learning and Judgment, becauſe the important Value of Life is entruſted in their Hands; and as theſe Men prepare the Medicines preſcribed in the Phyſician's Bill, the Patient's Life depends far more upon their Medicines and Managment, than the Phyſician's Judgement; and as theſe Men are proved to be illiterate, enthuſiaſtical *Innovators* and *Empirics*, who, for want of Education, can ſcarce read or write *Engliſh*, and were never taught the Myſtery of the excellent Profeſſions of *Chemiſtry* and *Phyſic*; how cautious ſhould the Public be, in entruſting them? But

as

as the Public cannot diſtinguiſh the Learned from the Ignorant, it becomes highly neceſſary to deſcribe theſe Profeſſors of Ignorance in their true Characters; that from ſuch Circumſtances the renown'd College of Phyſicians, with the Chemiſts and other learned Practitioners, may petition the Parliament to eſtabliſh a Law, whereby this ſpreading Evil may be effectually remedied, ſince it highly concerns the Good and Safety of the Public.

If you ever were *concerned for the Lives of his Majeſty's Subjects*, theſe ignorant Ruffians ought to have been principally conſidered by you in your Petition, and not the Trade in general: Theſe Dunces could never withſtand the general Diſcharge of your *Ivory Pop-Guns*, but fall within *Point Blank* of your Level. Theſe Tribes of Experimenting Chemiſts and Apothecaries are certainly the Perſons whom *Milton* has admirably deſcribed in the following Soliloquy:

O! what are theſe?
Death's Miniſters, not Men, who thus
deal Death
Inhumanly to Men, and multiply
Ten thouſandfold the Sin of him who ſlew
His

His Brother; for of whom such Massacre
Make they, but of their Brethren, Men of
Men?

In your Pamphlet, called *Frauds detected*, you seem to lament, and mention it as great Pity, that a Chemist should be suffered to practise as an Apothecary; which must be allowed a just Observation so far as we have considered the illiterate Pretenders; but your Remorse extends itself to those of the greatest Abilities; on which Account the World, instead of acknowledging the Equity of such Reasoning, eclipsed by that false Assertion, are now convinced of your ambitious Designs, manifested by the more powerful and irresistible Beams of culminating Truth.

A Chemist, who visits the Sick in the Capacity of an Apothecary, ought to be preferred in his Practice for undeniable Reasons, especially if he be acknowledged as a Man of Genius and Learning; for by this Means a Patient has Advantages equal to the Chemist. In the first Place the Chemist compounds all his Medicines, consequently he knows how far to depend on them; the Apothecary buys his, consequently, knows

not

not how far to truſt them: In the next Place, the Chemiſt, who practiſes as an Apothecary, gives the ſame Attendance, as the other Apothecaries, to his Patients, and, by the Advantage of preparing his own Medicines faithfully, can afford them at one *hundred and fifty per Cent.* cheaper than the Apothecary, who buys them, as appears by the two different Bills; the Chemiſt generally charging One Shilling per Bolus, and the Apothecary Two Shilling and ſix Pence, and other Medicines accordingly. It cannot be ſuppoſed, but the Apothecary can charge his Medicines a little cheaper, but it is well known he ſeldom has the Conſcience to do it, where he attends a good Patient.

By the ſame Means the Poor and Needy are benefited by the Chemiſt, who can afford to retail his Medicines at eaſy Rates. Theſe are the plain and real Reaſons why Chemiſts, who have been regularly educated in the practical Way, meet with ſuch Succeſs in Buſineſs; and this needs not gall the Apothecary, for he may, or might have had the ſame Advantages; and this Method deſerves to be purſued by all Practitioners on many Accounts.

It appears very ſtrange, that the Apothecary ſhould deſpiſe and defame the Chemiſt, who is equally qualified to practiſe, becauſe he contents himſelf with a reaſonable Profit; for if they are equally capable of Buſineſs, it is impoſſible they ſhould aſſign any other Reaſons for their Malice.

In your Pamphlet you have accuſed the Trade in general, for miſcompounding Medicines, *&c.* and have excepted none but two or three Apothecaries, and thoſe are your Boſom Friends, who ſerve the *Navy*; but it certainly muſt be allowed a Vanity in your Company, to imagine themſelves the only *Æſculapians*, *Galeniſts*, and *Boerhavians*; or that the equal Knowledge of theſe Proficients, like the Royal Touch, is veſted in you only; for it is well known, that there are Chemiſts and Druggiſts in *London*, whoſe Knowledge is not to be placed in Competition with you, either with regard to their Skill in Drugs and Medicines, or in the Theory and Practice of the noble Art of Chemiſtry. I don't, like you, aſſert this Truth with *I have been told thus*, *Have heard ſay*, but if you will conſult their Writings on theſe Subjects, you will find

find it ſo; theſe are Men, who have ever maintained an unſpotted Credit and Reputation; and can theſe Men be ſuppoſed to deceive Mankind by ſophiſticating their Medicines? No, though their Profits are ſmaller than yours, yet it is well known, by their ſuperior Skill in Chemiſtry, nay even by a ſingle Article, they can force their Bread, and ſnap their Fingers at all the ignorant *Train'd Band of Experimenters.*

And yet the *Apothecaries Company* would be thought *Competent Judges*, and ſuperior in Knowledge to theſe Men, who by their Art, have made ſuch Improvements in natural Knowledge; for it is certain, that Chemiſtry cannot be purſued without Natural Philoſophy, nor *vice verſa*. Chemiſtry is the beſt adapted Science to diſcover the latent peculiar Power of Bodies; a wiſe Chemiſt can reſolve a Compound into its Simples, and by a careful Examination of ſuch Simples ſeparately, can unite them again in a certain Manner, and by that means diſcover new and uſeful Appearances and Properties. A Chemiſt, endowed with this Knowledge, is able to produce real Phyſical Effects, without idle Speculations, it

being the Character of a Chemiſt, ſays the learned *Boerhaave*, that his Speculations paſs on to Effects.

THE juſt Compiling of *Diſpenſatories*, and the Art of Extemporaneous Preſcriptions, depend upon a thorough Knowledge in Chemiſtry; and to the Want of this are owing thoſe *Errors and Blunders* ſo frequently committed by *Diſpenſatory* Writers, in ordering the ſtanding Medicines of the Shops.

BUT if we conſider Chemiſtry in its full Extent, we ſhall find it ſcarce leſs than the whole of Natural Philoſophy. Had it not been for Chemiſtry, Sir *Iſaac Newton* could not have made ſuch ſurprizing Diſcoveries in Natural Philoſophy: That curious Sett of Queries at the End of his *Optics*, are almoſt wholly Chemical.

HENCE it is evident, that the learned Chemiſt merits the Preference as a COMPETENT JUDGE to diſcover *Frauds in Medicines*, &c. conſequently more fit to be inveſted with a Power of inſpecting and detecting the notorious Frauds of the ignorant Apothecary, than the Apothe-

cary of the Chemiſt. The Parliament certainly underſtood as much *a priori*, or they would have heard your Petition; but it was evident, that your Deſigns were founded on ſelf-intereſting Principles, conſequently, that you were not a proper Body to be entruſted with Authority, on Account of your Integrity, as well as Judgment.

By this iniquitous Scheme you have diſcloſed the Eyes of the Public, and henceforth your *Fame* will fly like a yelping Cur, with a Bladder at his Tail, the Jeſt and Sport of every Chemiſt's Apprentice between *Wapping* and *Weſtminſter*.

But now let us ſeriouſly ſuppoſe, what would have proved the Conſequence, had you ſucceeded in your Intentions; how far it would affect Trade in general. It is plain that if your Company had obtained an Authority to regulate Druggiſts, Chemiſts, and Apothecaries, within, and ſeven Miles round, the City of *London*; that you would firſt contrive Means to ſatisfy yourſelves for the Trouble, as in your laſt Grant, whereby every Shop became obliged annually to

preſent

preſent you with Six Shillings, rather than diſpute with you; for if you found Fault where there was none, as you formerly have done, you would be ſatisfied, or elſe the Trader's Credit be expoſed, *&c.* If this be allowed it cannot be ſuppoſed, but you would rather accept a Guinea once a Year from every Shop, as a Perquiſite, than moleſt the Trader either in compounding or vending the vileſt Medicines. There are Scores who believe it, becauſe you have practiſed ſuch Things before, and would theſe *Practices* regard the *Lives and Healths of his Majeſty's Subjects?*

Now, *è contra*, ſuppoſe, by this Power you ſhould force the greateſt Part of the Trade to deal at your Hall for their Medicines, the better to avoid any ill Conſequence; why, ſuch is your grand *Deſideratum*, this would be charging home with your *Coup d'Eclat*; in this Caſe, you could eaſily charge Six Shillings for a Pound of *Venice Treacle*, which the honeſt Druggiſt and Chemiſt could afford for three Shillings and ſix Pence, with reaſonable Profit; and your Excuſe for ſuch high Price would be fixed for your great Trouble in picking out ALL THE SAND, STRAWS, AND OTHER HETERO-

GENEOUS

GENEOUS FILTH, as if no Trader had Honeſty enough to do the ſame, but yourſelves.

IT is evident hence, that this is the Method by which you intended to beggar the fair Trader to enrich yourſelves; and if we conſider what Sums of Money you would have collected, and engroſſed by this Scheme, we ſhould be no longer in Suſpence, how your whole Company jumped into Chariots, purchaſe Country Seats, or have ſuch large Sums at Intereſt. Your honourable Proceedings by ſuch a Scheme would have bore ſo great an Affinity to ſome excellent Lines in *Hudibras*, that I cannot forbear tranſcribing them:

What makes all Doctrines plain and
clear?
About two hundred Pounds a Year.
What makes that true, which juſt before
Had been proved falſe? Two hundred
more.

IF I may prognoſticate, this would be the very Practice in your *Viſitations*; for wherever you met with a Shop of the vileſt Medicines, they would turn out the very

very beſt, if your Hands were properly *tickled.*

But here follows what ought to be principally conſidered; if you had eſtabliſhed this Inquiſition, your Power was deſigned to extend no farther than ſeven Miles round; the Reaſon of that Limitation is plain, for had it been general, it would have commenced a general Phyſical Exciſe, and according to your Deſign would prove highly pernicious to the City Druggiſts and Chemiſts; for if we ſuppoſe that the Chemiſt and Druggiſt in the Compounding of Medicines, ſhould not entirely powder his very fineſt larger Ingredients, yet it is certain, the Medicine would turn out never a whit the worſe for uſing the ſmall, after the Duſt and damaged Part were ſeparated; for amongſt ſome Drugs the ſmall breaking from the large in Carriage, *&c.* contains more Virtue than the large itſelf, and always equals the large in Virtue when ſound. All the World believes, you know this by Experience, as well as the Chemiſts, *&c.* though it muſt be allowed, the larger will fetch a higher Price. It is under this Shelter of Knavery that you charge Six Shillings, for what the Chemiſt can afford

ford for three, when at any Time it is found by Trial, that theirs are equal to yours, and often exceed in their proper Virtue. Now as this is really the Caſe, if the Chemiſt and Druggiſt be obliged under the ſame Sanction to uſe the very beſt picked Ingredients in his Compoſitions, then it follows, they muſt charge the ſame Price; and as the Country Traders would be exempt from this Obligation, they would engroſs the whole Trade to themſelves, and inſtead, of the City ſupplying them with Medicines, as uſual, they could afford to ſupply the City at Forty *per Cent.* cheaper, as being free and exempt from the *Tythes* of your *Inquiſition*: On which Account, the Conſumers would naturally deal with the Country Traders, and the City Druggiſts and Chemiſts would find themſelves under a Neceſſity of retiring into the Country, to the general Detriment of this populous City. I have inſtanced this plain Fact, that the Publick may judge on the pernicious Conſequences, which would infallibly attend your iniquitous Scheme; than which nothing could have been better contrived to enrich the Apothecaries Company, at the Ruin of the Trade in general. For if thoſe, who, conſcious

of their Inability to compound good Medicines, or were not honeſt enough to do it, out of a ſelfiſh Principle, were obliged to buy their Medicines from your *Hall* (the better to avoid the Penalty of Inſpection) it may be eaſily comprehended, what large Sums you muſt annually amaſs, when they became obliged to pay you Forty *per Cent.* more than to an honeſt fair Trader. Your annual Impoſition extorted from every Shop in *London*, at Six Shillings each, has been acknowledged to amount to Fifty Pounds; and it has been computed, if your Bill had paſſed, that the Increaſe of your Profits, ariſing from new Cuſtomers within ſeven Miles round, added to the Perquiſites, which you would have annually collected from thoſe who dealt elſewhere, would amount to the Sum of Six thouſand Pounds and upwards, yearly.

YOUR Obſervations on the Deceits and Uncertainties of Druggs and Medicines, are as new, as they are ſurprizing; and it is ſuppoſed that theſe *miraculous Sophiſtications*, ſo abſurd and ſcandalous, are the real Product of your late Midnight Machinations, contrived to unhinge the public Eſteem of all the Trade, but yourſelves; for ſince your

Remarks

Remarks were printed, after a moſt ſtrict Enquiry, I could never hear of any Perſon, nor even the vileſt Adulterator, that ever imagined the Poſſibility of making *Lenitive Electuary with Damſons*, or *Salt of Amber with Sal Armoniac*; but the Truth of this Artifice appears too plain by your late Pamphlet, which is wrote in ſuch a moſt delicate *Tooth-ſucking, Coaks-him-Pugg* Style, that no Simile in the World can equal it, unleſs it be compared to your old *Grandſire Nick*, acting in the Capacity of an *Apothecary*, by adminiſtring the Apple to our Parent *Eve*, as a *Bolus*: It met with a kind Reception, till it was analyſed by the Chemiſt, and no ſooner was its innate Principles expoſed, than it became damned for a *Felo de Se*.

It is greatly to be feared, your admirable Hiſtory of Adulterations will be attended with fatal Conſequences; for ſince you have laid down ſuch plain Rules to thoſe unſkilled in ſophiſticating Medicines, whereby to perform that Buſineſs to Advantage, it is not to be doubted but thoſe ignorant Pretenders to Chemiſtry and Phyſic before mentioned, will ſeize the Opportunity, and, at a pro-

per Seaſon compound ſuch Quantities of the *Damſon Lenitive*, as to afford it for One Shilling *per* Pound, rather than turn away a Cuſtomer; a Practice ſo frequent with a certain notorious Impoſtor, lately ſtamped with the unmerited Appellation of *Chemiſt*, that he never aſks more than One Shilling and four Pence *per* Pound for *London Treacle*, and other Medicines proportionably; when every one is ſenſible it cannot be diſpenſed at leſs than twenty Pence prime Coſt, at the cheapeſt Times.

HENCE by your new Improvements in ſophiſticating, it is to be expected that new Swarms of Empirical Chemiſts, *&c.* will daily appear, to the great Detriment of the Phyſician and the honeſt Trader, but moſt fatal to the Public in general; and which Evil, unleſs it be ſpeedily checked by Legiſlative Power, will eſtabliſh a perpetual Monument of Scandal to your Company.

THERE ſtill remains to be revealed a Crime of the moſt heinous and contemptible Nature, frequently practiſed by the above deſcribed Empirics; that is, their unparalleled Method of preſcribing Medicines to prolong Diſeaſes, with a View

of

of ſwelling their Bills to a round Sum; but it is to be hoped, that few are guilty of this Vice, who, out of a Principle of Avarice, by this Means endanger the Patient's Life too frequently; thoſe who are moſt noted for Illiterature and Sophiſtications, are moſtly to be ſuſpected guilty of this infernal Practice; thoſe who retail bad Medicines to the Poor, when knowing them ſuch, will not ſcruple, if Opportunity ſerves, to deliver Medicines and prolong theDiſeaſes of thoſe who are better able to pay. The Caſe of an Intermittent Fever, favours the Apothecary greatly for this Purpoſe, who, after he has prepared the Body for the Bark, begins the Cure with Draughts of the ſame, to be repeated every four Hours during the Abſence of the febrile Paroxyſm; this Method is continued for three or four Days, or longer, according to their Method of managing and doſing the Bark; and when the Cure only wants compleating with ſome Aromatic Reſtringents and Stomachics, a Medicine of a purgative Quality is adminiſtered, which infallibly renews the periodical Fits, and there never is wanting a plauſible Excuſe for this Relapſe; as, perhaps, the drinking Malt Liquor, catching Cold, *&c.* And

now Recourſe muſt be had again to the Bark Draughts, and thus is the Patient moſt miſerably tormented, and his Life ſo far endangered, that perhaps it is out of the Power of a Phyſician to ſave it, when called; but be that as it will, the Apothecary makes out his Bill for the Patient of as many Pounds, as perhaps would not have coſt him Shillings from an ingenious Chemiſt. To make this appear plainer, ſuppoſe the Bark Draughts conſiſt of about a Drachm or more of fine powder'd Bark, as much Syrup of any Sort, and of ſimple and compound Waters each one Ounce, with a few Drops of *Elixir Vitriol:* The Value of this Draught does not exceed Six Pence to the Apothecary, and he never fails to charge one Shilling and Six Pence, but oftner two Shillings each. Now if four of theſe Draughts be conſumed every Twenty four Hours during the Cure, which ſuppoſe moderately ten Days, then the prime Coſt of all the Draughts amount to Twenty Shillings; and if he charges them moderately at One Shilling and Six Pence each, his Bill amounts to Three Pounds; out of which he has Forty Shillings for his attending ten Days; which muſt be allowed a moſt reaſonable Profit, even to all unreaſonable

reaſonable Men. But as this is practiſed by a few reaſonable Apothecaries only; let us further calculate, as it is moſt common: If he ſends in four gilded Bolus's compounded of Bark, or its Preparations, every Day, with four Stomach Draughts, compounded of very ſimple Ingredients, or a half Pint Cordial Julep, to waſh them down with; the Charge of every Bolus and Julep generally runs at Two Shillings and Six Pence each, though neither of them, ſingly, coſts him Eight Pence: Now if four Bolus's and four Draughts, or one Julep, be conſumed every Day for ten Days, and the Sum computed, a Profit for Attendance will be eaſily diſcovered, which would make every honeſt Man bluſh; and yet ſome of theſe Scoundrels, not content with Four hundred *per Cent.* Profit, have the flagrant Wickedneſs to prolong Diſtempers, the better to complete a handſome Bill; and inſtead of performing a Cure in ten Days, or leſs, will torment the Patient oftentimes as many Weeks, in a View to pick their Pockets. Every Perſon can diſcern how far this Practice differs from a Chemiſt, qualified duly to practiſe as an Apothecary, who, conſcious of the Goodneſs and Coſt of his Medicines, delivers a Bill of Twenty

Twenty Shillings, which the common Apothecary would charge at Five Pounds; for it muſt be obſerved, that a Chemiſt who practiſes as an Apothecary, never charges above one Shilling for the deareſt Bolus preſcribed by the Phyſician, the ſame for a Draught, and one Shilling and Six-pence for the Juleps; although he gives the ſame Attendance as the Apothecary; and if the Medicines are retailed, he generally contents himſelf with Two-pence in a Shilling Profit. Theſe are downright honeſt Reaſons, why an ingenious Chemiſt and Apothecary, after he becomes a little noted, tumbles into good Buſineſs; and theſe are the Proceedings, that mortify the common Apothecaries, and induce them to deſpiſe and ſneer at the practical Chemiſt, becauſe he contents himſelf with a third Part of the Apothecaries Gains, although the Chemiſt acknowledges his Profits in the practical Way, to be nearly half.

I HAVE juſt inſtanced this Example, *viz.* of the Bark, wherein the clandeſtine Profits of the common Apothecary are truly ſtated, as well as the Method, by which ſeveral of them continue and prolong the Diſeaſes of thoſe who are ſo inconſiderate

as to employ them. There are other Inſtances of Diſeaſes, whereby the Apothecary, who is guilty of theſe Mal-Practices, can inforce prodigious Advantages. The Truth of which may be collected from the above Example; it ſhall ſuffice at preſent, to remark a little more of their Profit, *viz.* Any Apothecary can purchaſe a Pound of *Sperma Ceti* from any Chemiſt, of the fineſt Sort, at two Shillings *per* Pound; now as it is common to compound their Bolus's and Draughts, by means of a little Yelk of Egg, wherein this is the only Article to depend on, as in Coughs, Colds, Hoarſeneſs, or where there is an inward Complaint, occaſioned by a Fall, Blow, or the like; then perhaps four of theſe Bolus's or Draughts are ordered every Day, till the Diſorder is removed. Theſe Bolus's and Draughts are by the moſt reaſonable Apothecary, charged at One Shilling and Six-pence each, when it is well known, that the practical Chemiſt would be glad to put them off at Six-pence a piece: but this is not all; for ſome of the above Diſorders, it is well known, can be removed in half the Time with more effectual Medicines, and with ten times leſs Expence; therefore whoever conſiders this, let him remember the

old Motto, *Qui vult decipi, decipiatur.* I could enumerate hundreds of these Examples, but let the following Observations be remarked as a general *Scholium.* No Bolus, of what kind soever, ever exceeds Eight-pence Cost to the Apothecary; the richest half Pint Julep one Shilling; the Draught, of what kind soever, Nine-pence. The Quart Emulsion used in Stranguries, occasioned by Blisters, one Shilling; and other Medicines accordingly; the Company of the Apothecaries dare not assert the above Rates to be false, and hence every Person may form a tolerable Judgment, whether they be imposed on in their Bills; and if the Excuse of the Price be fixed on Account of the *Bezoar* being compounded in the Medicines, the Patient may safely, on all Occasions, desire it to be omitted; for, whatever some People may fancy, it has been found to act in the human Body, with no other Efficacy, than as a sluggish inert Calx, as Calx of Antimony, *&c.* which has been known to obstruct the Lacteals, when given in large Quantities, and by that means occasion a universal *Atrophy.*

What is most to be lamented in the above Examples, is the Patient, who seldom

dom conſiders the Ingenuity and Honeſty of his Apothecary, if he be recommended as a Perſon, who has been in Trade ſome Years, conſequently a Man of Credit, and has acquired the Eſteem of thoſe, to whom he has paid a polite Complaiſance, and with the additional Circumſtances of a *Tye-Wig and Rocquelo* has enforced his Credentials.

THE old Women and Midwives are remarkable for theſe Recommendations, who ever inſiſt on being thought Judges, becauſe their Apothecaries (by attacking them on the *blind Side)* approve of every thing they ſay and do; nay, ſuch is the Effeminacy of the preſent Practice, that the Fair Sex are generally ſo opinionated, that rather than liſten to the real Merit of an ingenious Stranger to them, they will not ſcruple to place their *dear genteel Apothecary* in competion with *Æſculapius* himſelf; though perhaps he knows no more of the Practice of Phyſick, than what he acquired from common Obſervations, as a Labourer to ſome Quack, together with the Peruſal of *Quincy's Diſpenſatory*, which, by the way, has furniſhed the Town with ſuch Swarms of Empirics, that, perhaps, it has occaſioned

the Death of as many People, as ever it returned Shillings.

THE trading Chemical Cheats are not to be exempted from ſome of the above pernicious Practices. They frequently amuſe the poor Venereal Patient by repeated Doſes of Phyſic, while he pays ready Money, until a large Sum is extorted, and at laſt diſcharges him uncured; or, what is worſe, inſtead of curing him, converts his Clap into an inveterate Pox; a Practice ſo frequent with the advertiſing Quacks, that was it not for ſuch Treatment, the regular Surgeon would want Buſineſs.

FROM hence it may be eaſily inferred, how careful and circumſpect a Patient ought to be in the Choice of his Apothecary and Chemiſt; and that the bare Hearſay, and Recommendation of an indifferent Perſon is not to be truſted, and that for divers important Reaſons. A Patient ſhould never be bigotted to any Apothecary, but ought at all times carefully to endeavour to diſtinguiſh the Man of Learning from the Empiric. The old Practitioner is not to be regarded more than a young one, if the young one has been regularly

gularly educated, and is known to be a Man of Learning and Genius. The Art of Phyſic is not to be acquired, nor purſued by any old Method or common Track; but Medicines are to be varied as Circumſtances require, and none but an ingenious Man can inveſtigate theſe Circumſtances. That common ignorant Notion ſo prevailing, *viz. My Apothecary knows my Conſtitution, — has been us'd to me for* Years, *&c.* is not to be countenanced too far, as if no Man could compound a Doſe of purging Phyſic, *&c.* agreeably to the Conſtitution of the Patient ſo well as he, who has been employed by him for Years. This is the moſt prevailing Fancy attending thoſe Patients, who through their peculiar Bigotiſm will more readily employ an Empiric than a regular learned Apothecary; though they can aſſign no other Reaſon for ſuch Preference, than that *He knows my Conſtitution beſt*, &c. But the Abſurdity and Fallaciouſneſs of ſuch Reaſoning, is eaſily diſcerned by the Man of Senſe. Indeed it muſt be acknowledged, that through the peculiar Idioſyncraſy of the Patient, the Apothecary is obliged ſometimes to alter his Medicines accordingly. As for Inſtance, ſome Conſtitutions are more readily and ſafely ſalivated

livated with a Mercurial Unguent, outwardly applied; others cannot be ſalivated by this Means, but the Buſineſs is well performed with Mercurials inwardly: the Bark will purge ſome Conſtitutions violently, and prove highly Reſtringent to others; and theſe Things happen quite the Reverſe to the ſame People at different Times, according to the Alteration of the different Fluids, *&c.* in the Body: but as the Body and Conſtitution of Man is ſo very unſtable, and ſubject to ſuch a perpetual Round of Changes, occaſioned by the Air, Diet, *&c.* that it may be truly ſaid never to continue in the ſame State for two Hours; and as Medicines are known to affect the ſame Body differently at different Times; how can it be made appear, that one Apothecary ſhould know the Conſtitution by being uſed to the Patient, any better than he, who is an entire Stranger, and forms his Judgment according to the Symptoms of the Pulſe, by proper Queſtions and external Diagnoſtics? It is certainly a Taſk too hard for the moſt able Phyſician. All theſe Facts evince the Neceſſity of employing that Perſon as an Apothecary, who by his peculiar Genius and Learning, can beſt inveſtigate the primary Cauſe and Nature

the Diſeaſe, and then the judicious Application of proper Medicines becomes eaſy: but how can this be effected by an Empiric, who is employed through a Fancy of the Patient, and whoſe Practice is but meer Gueſs-Work, (Hit or miſs, Luck is all.) It may be truly inferred from hence, that ſome thouſands endanger, and perhaps loſe their Lives, by their particular Whimſies; for it has been demonſtrated before, that in any Part of *London*, where there is One deſerving Chemiſt or Apothecary of Genius or Letters, there are Five who would be found by proper Examination, to be meer Emperics, and yet in good Practice, occaſioned by the ſilly Fancy of the inconſiderate Patient. More Inſtances of this Nature might be eaſily deduced; but as this was intended as a Pamphlet, this Subject ſhall be deferred to another Opportunity.

CONCLU-

CONCLUSION.

BY the preceding Diſcourſe the principal Views of the ignorant and illiterate Practitioners in Chemiſtry and Phyſic are ſufficiently delineated; and as it has been demonſtrated, that this Band of Enthuſiaſts do actually compound, retail, and practiſe with ſophiſticated Medicines; it now becomes a neceſſary and incumbent Duty, to propoſe a Method, whereby this ſpreading Calamity may be redreſſed. It has been conſidered, that the Petition to Parliament, by the Company of Apothecaries, was founded on ſiniſter, ambitious Views, and that the WELFARE OF HIS MAJESTY'S SUBJECTS was not ſo much regarded, as an additional Increaſe of their preſent monſtrous Profits: And that this was a ſecond Reaſon why the Legiſlature refuſed to acknowledge them as COMPETENT JUDGES, and hence, are no longer to be conſidered as ſuch by the Public, nor a proper Body to inſpect the Shops of their Superiors. The Apothecary cannot be thought a Judge of the eſſential Qualities of Compounds, becauſe he does not

not underſtand Chemiſtry; if he did, he would not be obliged to buy his Chemicals, conſequently could find no Fault with his Medicines. The Druggiſt is liable to the ſame Objections, for he would have no Occaſion for his Chemicals from their Laboratory, if he could prepare them himſelf; the Phyſician may know how to preſcribe Medicines, and by their Effects may pronounce their Goodneſs; but he cannot be ſuppoſed to be the beſt Judge, becauſe moſt Phyſicians ſeldom or never do compound *Galenical* Medicines, much leſs the Chemicals, to the Preparation of which they muſt be entire Strangers: Hence it follows, that the Chemiſt muſt be the proper Arbitrator in this important Affair. The Chemiſt, by various Experiments and Arts, unknown to any but himſelf, can analyſe the moſt elaborate Preparations, deſcribed in the *Diſpenſatory*, and by Means of Fire and proper Menſtruums can diſcover the latent *Frauds* and *Subſtitutes*, as has been before obſerved; but leſt the Chemiſt ſhould be ſuſpected of paſſing Sentence too partially, it is neceſſary to join him with the Phyſician and Druggiſt, that thoſe, whom they inſpect, may have the utmoſt ſatisfactory Juſtice done them; therefore it

becomes expedient to form a Committee, conſiſting of an equal Number of Phyſicians, Chemiſts, and Druggiſts, to be annually choſe by the College of Phyſicians, and ſworn into their Office by a proper Oath. This Committee, by an Act for that Purpoſe, ſhall be veſted with a Power of inſpecting the Shops, as oft as they think proper, of all thoſe who prepare and retail Medicines, as well as thoſe who practiſe as Apothecaries, in the ſame Manner as in former Grants for that Purpoſe; and where they ſhall find any bad Medicines, ſhall cauſe the ſame to be deſtroyed, and levy a Fine of Twenty Shillings, to be paid every Time, by the Offender; and this Power ſhall extend no further than Miles in and round the City of *London*; they ſhall be further empowered, to ſummon all thoſe Chemiſts, Druggiſts, and Apothecaries, who keep open Shops, compound, and retail Medicines, as well as thoſe that practiſe as Apothecaries, and that on producing Certificates of their Apprenticeſhips, they be regularly examined, whether they are qualified and capable to follow the above mentioned Profeſſions and Trades; and if adjudged uncapable, that they be diſmiſſed, and a proper Fine to be levied, if

at

at any Time they be found diſobeying ſuch Orders as are neceſſary for that Purpoſe, *&c.*

SUCH a ſalutary Power as this, properly applied, could not fail of producing the moſt happy Effect. It would certainly purge the Town of thoſe Swarms of Phyſical and Chemical Impoſtors, would manifeſtly preſerve the *Lives and Healths* of Thouſands of his *Majeſty's Subjects*, infallibly promote the Learning of the Phyſician, Chemiſt, and Druggiſt, and quiet the uneaſy *Apothecary*; who, as a certain Gentleman remarked (when told the Deſign of their Petition) were grown ſo jealous of the Chemiſts Profits in poiſoning, that they had petitioned for an Act, to engroſs the whole Art to THEMSELVES.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE the Writing of the preceding Diſcourſe, I have had a ſmall Time, to peruſe a printed Paper, privately handed about, called the APOTHECARIES CASE, which they have preſented to Parliament, the better to juſtify their late Proceedings.

THIS Piece contains a Number of Articles relative to their primary Intentions, as they would induce the World to credit; but although ſeveral of thoſe Articles coincide with the Conditions of *this Pamphlet*, yet ſome of them manifeſtly betray the ſame lucrative Principles, as are already inſtanced; they ſtill inſiſt on their ſtale Title of *Competent Judges*, and refuſe to acknowledge the Chemiſts to be their Competitors or Superiors in this Point; but if the Arguments in this Pamphlet prove inſufficient, I am able to demonſtrate from their own Words, that the Chemiſts merit the Preference, in the Opinion of all judicious Men: For if the Chemiſts are the moſt artful Sophiſticators of Medicines, and can adulterate them

ſo

ſo dexterouſly, as to elude the Judgment, and perplex the moſt **accurate Examiner*, [*viz.* the Apothecary] *and which none can reveal but thoſe who have wrapped them up together*; it is evident, the Chemiſt can beſt determine the Frauds of thoſe, whoſe Practices little differ from his own: For to ſet a Thief to catch a Thief is an old Maxim. Hence, would it not be abſurd to appoint an *innocent honeſt Apothecary*, to detect the Frauds of an impoſing, roguiſh Chemiſt? The Attempt would prove equally as ridiculous as the training up a *Jack-daw* to catch a *Hawk*.

The real lucrative Deſigns of the Apothecaries are very perſpicuous; for if their Intentions were primarily founded upon honourable and equitable Principles, why did they not conſult the Chemiſts and Druggiſts during this four Years Plot (ſince they allow there are ſome honeſt Men amongſt them) or why did they depreciate and ſlight the Counſel and Aſſiſtance of the learned College? Theſe could not be ſuſpected, *as void of Integrity, or guilty of Miſcompounding Medicines*. But, in ſhort, why have they been ſo clandeſtine in all their Proceedings? The Reaſon is plain, they de-

* Vide *Frauds detected in Drugs*, &c.

ſigned

ſigned to eſtabliſh an arbitrary Power, to enrich themſelves by deſtroying the Liberty of the fair Trader; and this ſeems to be confirmed by ſome Articles in their preſent *printed Caſe* *.

—— *Quantum mutatus ab* ——

How artfully, and with what *Fribbling* Complaiſance do they now addreſs the learned College, whoſe Aſſiſtance, two Months ago, they ſo contemptibly rejected. But as the Phyſicians are now petitioning the Parliament, for an Amendment of the late Act: It is to be hoped, they will unveil their iniquitous Scheme; by which means the Honourable Houſe of Commons may be better enabled to veſt thoſe Perſons only with proper Authority, who appear moſt able to execute the ſame impartially. Such a neceſſary Power cannot fail of producing the moſt ſalutary Purpoſes, as it would greatly preſerve the Lives of his Majeſty's Subjects, infallibly reſtore the Reputation of Pharmacy, and daily improve and confirm the Excellency of the noble Science of CHEMISTRY.

* *Vid.* the Article wherein they humbly propoſe the Sum of Six Shillings, to be annually contributed by every Shop, within ſeven Miles round the City, to be diſburſed in repairing their Garden at *Chelſea*, which, at a moderate Computation, would amount to the Sum of 1200 *l.* Yearly.

F I N I S.